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## WHAT DO THE GERMANS THINK OF US NOW?

First Sergeant W. R. Webb, Army Service Corps, A. E. F., Tells in Initial Story of Series Written Exclusively For DAILY REVIEW

### HUNS FIND AMERICANS HARSH, BUT NOT OPENLY HOSTILE; PUT RELATIONS UPON BUSINESS BASIS, SAYING "IT IS WAR"

"Parsimony" of Yankees is Disappointing to Germans Who Expected America to Be Fairy, Bringing Them Horn of Plenty; U. S. Troops Live in Abundance, But Give Them Nothing; Prefer Yanks to the French

By W. R. WEBB

First Sergeant Army Service Corps  
A. E. F.

Having just returned from duty with the American Expeditionary Forces in France and Germany, I am assailed from every direction with the question of "What Do the Germans Think of Us," and "What is the Army of Occupation?"

During the next few weeks I will give the readers of the Review a brief history of the A. E. F. from the time of the arrival of General Pershing up to the 15th day of April, 1919. These stories are largely along the line of explanations of the workings of the various departments in France and Germany from a business standpoint, or the business end of the expedition in its organization and operation both before November 11th and since that date.

It was not until April 1, 1919, that a full and accurate report was made by the commanding officers to G. H. Q. (general headquarters) and the statistics and facts which I will use in these stories will not be my own opinion or observation but the official reports as given for the first time to G. H. Q. on this date.

In answering the above questions, which seem to be of greater interest to the people at this time, I will first give a brief history of the army of occupation and its purpose for being in Germany, then a very interesting estimate of the American soldier as described by one of the most prominent business men of Berlin.

The following history is taken from the report of Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Wainright, historian of the army of occupation, as made to G. H. Q. on April 1, 1919:

#### Organization of the Army of Occupation

What is known officially as the Third American Army, now composed of seven regular army divisions, constitutes the American Army of Occupation in Germany. The Third American Army officially came into existence at 12 o'clock noon on the 15th of November, 1918, four days after the signing of the armistice.

The commanding general and other staff officers reported at Ligny-en-Barrois that day, where the headquarters was organized. In selecting the third army staff, an effort was made by the commanding general to get officers and men who would work harmoniously and gull as a team. Considerable latitude was allowed in the selection of these officers and every division was called upon to furnish staff officers who were desired. This condition resulted in some complaint by national guard officers that the selections were made mostly from regular army officers, but the general plan at that time was to make the army of occupation an army composed of regular army officers and men so as to relieve the national guard officers and men for return to the states.

It was with great difficulty that the army headquarters began functioning, as it is quite a large and complicated machine when formed.

Imagine, then, some 600 officers assembling in a strange place, no clerical force, absolutely nothing in the way of office furniture such as typewriters and office supplies, no maps, in fact, with nothing except the problem of starting an army advance, on a fighting basis, in just forty hours. The only information we had was the divisions which were to form the army. The administrative staff had to be organized, maps of the country to be passed over had to be made and printed. Information of the inhabitants of the country to be occupied had to be secured. Plans for the simultaneous movement of a large army had to be formulated and orders issued to the various divisions which were scattered all over the front line, and they must be in position ready to move in just forty hours. It was a most difficult and most urgent problem but in true American style these problems were met and worked out on schedule time.

#### The Advance to the Rhine

This is a subject about which whole books have been written in the past

#### American Treatment Piques Hun Autocrat

"I was not surprised to find that the room lacked not only the convenience of washing facilities but also all means of lighting and heating. Hardly had I found the bed, when someone knocked loudly at the door, and in the name of American law, assigned me a room-mate in the person of a rural laborer, who unfortunately did not bring in the products of his cattle culture, but only the dirt and smell."—wail of a Prussian autocrat, from the narrative of Sergeant Webb.

and will be written in the future, without doubt, for it represents one of the greatest, if not the greatest, advance army movements of all times. I refer to the advance of all the allied armies, which commenced at 5:30 a. m., November 17, 1918, the leading elements of all armies crossing at that time what had been the advanced battle line at 11 a. m., November 11 when the armistice became effective.

From left to right or north to south, the advance was formed: 1st Belgian army, 2nd British army, 5th French army, 3rd American army and 10th French army, a force which represented 1,250,000 men.

The initial orders for the movement directed that the advance elements of our army reach a point which was the French border of 1914 at the end of the second day's march and that the support divisions would follow at two days march distance and that all troops would be ready to resume the offensive at a moment's notice. Each division was divided and marched over two roads which made a column 15 miles long. On November 18, the advance elements reached the French frontier, when orders were received to follow the retreating German army at six miles distance through Luxembourg. As there had been more or less rioting going on among the liberated civilians of this district, we had to be very careful not to come in contact with the German troops. Colonel Wainright stated to me that he was sent in advance of the army and rode for several miles along side of the retreating German troops and found it a very interesting sight. Their troops did not look as a routed army in retreat might be expected to look. On the contrary one might have thought that it was a victorious advance. Their march discipline was perfect, and their men seemed to be in high spirits. Their horses and wagons were decorated with flowers, evergreens and flags. They were apparently celebrating their return to Germany.

Our northern boundary of advance from the German frontier to the Rhine was at this time defined as the administrative boundary separating the districts of Coblenz and Treves from those of Cologne and Aix-la-Chapelle. The bridgehead of Coblenz, or sector, to be occupied by the American army was defined as the territory on the right or east bank of the Rhine within the perimeter of a circle, whose radius is 30 kilometers and whose center is the abutment of the Pfaffendorfer bridge at Coblenz.

#### Creation of Third U. S. Army Remarkable Feat

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the western bank of the Rhine. Crossing the Rhine During the advance, staff officers had been sent forward to make a study of conditions and to prepare for the crossing of the Rhine and the occupation of the bridgehead. The plan contemplated four divisions on the east bank of the Rhine, two in support on the west bank, and two in reserve to the rear, with one on the lines of communication across Luxembourg. Field orders No. 12 of the third army, issued at 8 o'clock, December 12, directed that the third corps begin crossing the Rhine at 7 a. m., December 13. The second division crossed at Remagen, thirty second at Engers and the first on the two bridges at Coblenz, with headquarters established at Coblenz.

In case of a resumption of hostilities the American Army of Occupation was then disposed in such a manner as to hold the territory occupied and further to make a successful advance through Germany. Since America came into the war in real earnest, we have made no plans for defense and never will. Our plan of action is rather a plan of offensive and field order 12 states in part: "Corps will occupy with in the territory assigned them positions in readiness prepared for aggressive offensive action."

#### Subsequent Changes

I have described the initial dispositions taken up, and with the subsequent changes you will have a brief history of the Third American army. The 42nd division was transferred to the S. O. S. (service of supply) on April 1, 1919, and has since been transported to the United States for discharge. The 32nd division was on April 8 transferred to the S. O. S. and has been transported to the states. The 33rd division was transferred to the S. O. S. on April 12 and is now discharged. The 89th and 90th divisions were transferred to the S. O. S. on May 1 and are now on the way home. This leaves the 1st to 7th divisions now composing the army of occupation, all regular army divisions as the permanent organization which will remain in Germany as long as may be necessary.

#### What The Germans Think of Us

When I first arrived in Coblenz I wondered, in common with everyone else, what the people would be like and what they really thought about the American soldier and the conditions under which they were now living with American policemen enforcing the American regulations, American officers as judges, the American flag flying on every public and many private buildings, American troops occupying the formidable forts, American gun boats patrolling the Rhine, American planes flying around the country and American music in the cafes; then I tried to imagine the reverse conditions with German troops in an American city and wonder if the German would feel the same as we would under reverse circumstances. After some observation and questioning I came to the conclusion that the majority of the people didn't give it a thought and as long as they were not materially affected in the making of a dollar they didn't intend to give it much consideration.

On the 20th of March I ran across an editorial in the Berliner Tageblatt of the day before which seemed to express the universal condition of the mind of the average German and following is a translation of this editorial which is mostly true, but partly the ever present German propaganda:

#### The American Occupation (The Berliner Tageblatt, March 19)

"Whoever has succeeded by elaborate efforts in squeezing into the narrow territory occupied by American troops and has reached the headquarters of the commander, discovers that almost all the houses (hotels) erected for the entertainment of strangers have been taken over by the Americans for military purposes and that the shabby ones that remain have been subjected to official regulation. The newcomer will soon learn with a shudder what that means. When one reports within two hours to the police headquarters in order to avoid severe punishment, one is assigned to the billfolding office to a lodging without being allowed an opportunity to express a preference.

"I was sent to an inn of the sort which is generally frequented, in times when travel is unrestricted, by those vagrants who travel around through the country with barrel-organs and monkeys. I was not surprised to find that the room lacked not only the convenience of washing facilities but also all means of lighting and heating. Hardly had I found the bed—for it was night—when someone knocked loudly at the door and, in the name of American law, assigned me a room-mate in the person of a rural laborer, who unfortunately did not bring in the products of his cattle

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"Strange as is the effect of this restriction—it does not exist in the region occupied by French troops and was not in force with the German troops either during the war—it originates not in any feeling inimical toward us, but from a peculiarity in the American way of thinking. The Americans require of the Germans no manifestations of submissiveness or of affection; the population is allowed to express its feeling and opinions in so far as they are not unfriendly to the Americans. They do not censor the press except to this extent. On the other hand, they see no occasion for assuming any other attitude toward us than one of sober and unemotional detachment. The motto which governs their dealings and punctuates their speech is: 'It is war.' Therefore, there should be no fraterniza-

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tion, they are influenced in no small degree by the dread of being corrupted by bolshevistic ideas, especially in view of unmistakable rumors which have arrived from Belgium, rumors indicating that the danger of extreme radicalism is imminent.

"As was said before, the American authorities firmly restrain all social relations with the native girls, although they might not be considered a political factor. The Americans know what complications of family life would result if they should allow 15,000 idle and strapping soldiers to kick over the traces in a city (Coblenz) of 60,000 inhabitants. In order to avoid entanglement themselves, and also in order to guard the civil population from developments which would not be quite in accord with their views of sexual ethics, the American authorities have proclaimed the permanent celibacy of the soldiers.

"When a lieutenant, intoxicated by the heavy Rhenish-Hessian wine, for which he had a predilection, and also by the beauty of the German barmaid, made harmless amatory advances to her in an officers' casino, he was punished for it by the loss of his rank as an officer. The commander of his regiment sent apologies to the management of the establishment on account of his officer's behaviour, and informed the proprietor of the punishment.

"To the disappointment of many who had entertained visions of America as a fairy, bearing a horn overflowing with butter, eggs, and hams, the Americans show themselves very parsimonious with regard to food. Even the common soldier lives like a first class passenger on an ocean liner. He receives, twice or three times a day, meat which does not need to be disguised in a thin soup of vegetables and potatoes, but which is served up with gravy in good honest fashion. When he has sat his appetite with luscious steaks of beef and has swallowed his cup of coffee with milk and sugar to speed digestion, he is at liberty, especially if he is an officer, to buy every day a pound of the finest chocolate or a can of jam at the price of four marks. (Mark is 20c).

"This prerogative is the more exercised because a private receives a daily wage of eight marks and a lieutenant of forty marks as his dolce far niente. (The writer apparently regards the wage as sufficient to banish all pecuniary cares). But woe to the soldier who gives or sells a portion of his superfluity, and thrice woe to the civilian who accepts or buys said portion! A mere cigarette, received by a medicant, may entail prosecution for 'unauthorized possession of American property.' There have been twenty-three convictions, out of sixty-six cases, for this crime between January 5 and January 28, according to published accounts of American judicial proceedings at Coblenz. Such an offense must be atoned by a fine of five hundred to one thousand marks whereas, for the purchase of American property, the minimum punishment is three months imprisonment.

"More astounding than the severity of these punishments is the system of espionage used by the American executive authorities. Coblenz teems with gentlemen who are nothing other than decoys. With tempting bacon they hunt the street, striving to detect some impoverished caterer in crime they also practice their noble arts with the utmost success in spying on dealers in alcoholic beverages. Alcohol is an ill friend to the Americans and they all have reason to fight against it. The sale of ardent spirits is prohibited and the sale of wine and beer is limited to the periods from 12 to 2 o'clock and from 5 to 7 o'clock. It is distinctly their own business to determine how they wish to guard their men from the depredations of alcohol. There can be no objection if patrols of officers make the rounds of public houses as coffee inspectors to discover whether the coffee is genuine or is mixed with brandy. But we cannot quite understand why they use secret agents to entrap Germans also in the enjoyment of their bitters.

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commodations. The French soon presented a striking contrast. When a detachment of them came to Coblenz, they made haste to find the monument of William I and to run derisively around it, as though possessed, blowing their trumpets. This scene amused the Americans vastly. The American officers quite properly punish premeditated affronts; but it is not in harmony with their manner of thinking or acting to exact more deference than accrues to men who exercise neutral control. They are rather inclined to protect the Germans from discomfort by the French.

"The majority of the American soldiers quite naturally look down upon Germany a bit, but they feel no hatred or dislike for the German population. The situation among officers is more complicated. They constitute a privileged class of leaders, sharply distinguished from the men in the ranks. The Germans soon felt that among the higher officers there are some who have a certain sympathy for Germany. It is noticeable, however, that these officers studiously avoid any appearance of friendliness. Their leaning toward Germany is counteracted by the strong American nationalistic tendency among the officers. An intelligent higher officer with whom I discussed all political questions under conditions where there was no danger of our being spied upon, said almost heatedly, when the word, 'German-American' was used: 'We no longer recognize any German-Americans; unfortunately, there was a great superfluity of them. Neither do we recognize any Irish-Americans or French-Americans but only Americans!'

"It may be observed upon the streets that pious American soldiers salute our Catholic priests. Never has an American been known to show special regard for a French officer. The youngest of the American lieutenants can pass a French general without taking the slightest notice of him. Between Americans and French there is an undeniable antipathy. Many Americans speak slightly of the civilization which they have seen in the villages behind the front and of the bad condition of their quarters. They are aware that they brought about the decision in the war and they have no love for the victorious air, which the French assume.

"The American soldier has only one wish, to shake the dust of Europe from his feet as quickly as possible. He is homesick, that cannot be denied. If he is alone in the evening in his quarters and all voices are still, then

he spreads out the photographs of his dear ones before him and abandons himself to longing. 'Peace' is the releasing word which he impatiently awaits."

Gretchen is Not Fair The above article is mostly a correct conception of conditions in Coblenz from the viewpoint of the German mind but I must take decided exceptions to his reference to the "beauty of the German barmaid" as there is no such animal. I failed to find one any place in Coblenz and I don't believe I passed up any of the bars. Of course I may have been somewhat biased in my opinion due to the fact that I went to Coblenz direct from the association with the "beauties" of Paris and by comparison the German girl hasn't a ghost of a chance beside the French girl of Paris. We often remarked that we didn't particularly blame the Germans for trying to capture France and some of it's women if they had to marry the kind of girls we saw in Coblenz and Cologne.

Aside from the girl question, the men in Germany are having a good time and many unusual experiences. I remember witnessing a little affair of one of the guards who had some German traffic regulation offenders out working one day and was guarding them in a place where they apparently had no means of escape when suddenly they disappeared from sight, and to all appearances from the face of the earth.

He was in charge of these six prisoners who were digging a hole in the rear of the Liberty hall. On three sides were walls of such a height that it would be impossible for the prisoners to scale them. On the remaining side was the guard, bayonet fixed and ever on the alert for disorder among his charges. For an instant he glanced away and when he looked in their direction again they were gone. Visions of serving the sentences of the six prisoners flashed through the mind of the guard; then he decided that some action must be taken and taken immediately. He rushed to the edge of the hole and peered into its depths but found no clue to the mystery. Then in one corner of the excavation he saw a small hole opening into what seemed to be an underground passageway. With one jump he reached the opening and, shoving his rifle and bayonet ahead of him he crowded his way along a brick lined tunnel until he found himself in a brick lined cellar, amply stocked with ancient vintages from the vineyards along the Rhine.

#### Wine Cask Plot is Spoiled

Seated on the wine casks, and evidently very much at ease, sat the six prisoners, smiling at the discomfort of the guard. He hurried the six willful prisoners back to daylight and had them begin to brick up the entrance to the discovery with a plan to future reference. Just then the officer of the day came on the scene with the result that the secret passageway came into official notice and was ordered out of bounds to all members of the A. E. F. so the dreams of the guard's private wine cellar went the way of the goof and dodo.

The scenic and historical attractions of the Rhine country are most interesting to those who can appreciate these things. The trip from Coblenz to Cologne down the Rhine river is a wonderful sight and one of the main scenic attractions of Europe.

From the tourist's point of view the most interesting part of the Rhine lies between the Seven Mountains and Bingen. A few kilometers below the Seven Mountains is the university town of Bonn. Here the eBthoven House, and the university itself are of interest because of the home of the famous musician and the quaint architecture of the buildings. There are many legends of all the little towns along the Rhine which are most interesting and the following is one pertaining to the Seven Mountains at the foot of which lies the little town of Konigswinter:

#### Interesting Legend

A point of especial interest in this locality is the Cisterian Abby of (Continued on page two)

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#### "Beautiful German Bar Maid" Myth, Says Sgt.

In comment on a German's tale of an American lieutenant who was disciplined for flirting with one of Germania's daughters, Sergeant Webb remarks: "But I must take decided exception to his reference to the 'beauty of the German bar maid.' I failed to find one any place in Coblenz, and I don't think I passed up any of the bars. We often remarked that we didn't particularly blame the Germans for trying to capture France and some of its women if they had to marry the kind of girls we saw in Coblenz and Cologne."

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"The majority of the American soldiers quite naturally look down upon Germany a bit, but they feel no hatred or dislike for the German population. The situation among officers is more complicated. They constitute a privileged class of leaders, sharply distinguished from the men in the ranks. The Germans soon felt that among the higher officers there are some who have a certain sympathy for Germany. It is noticeable, however, that these officers studiously avoid any appearance of friendliness. Their leaning toward Germany is counteracted by the strong American nationalistic tendency among the officers. An intelligent higher officer with whom I discussed all political questions under conditions where there was no danger of our being spied upon, said almost heatedly, when the word, 'German-American' was used: 'We no longer recognize any German-Americans; unfortunately, there was a great superfluity of them. Neither do we recognize any Irish-Americans or French-Americans but only Americans!'

"It may be observed upon the streets that pious American soldiers salute our Catholic priests. Never has an American been known to show special regard for a French officer. The youngest of the American lieutenants can pass a French general without taking the slightest notice of him. Between Americans and French there is an undeniable antipathy. Many Americans speak slightly of the civilization which they have seen in the villages behind the front and of the bad condition of their quarters. They are aware that they brought about the decision in the war and they have no love for the victorious air, which the French assume.

"The American soldier has only one wish, to shake the dust of Europe from his feet as quickly as possible. He is homesick, that cannot be denied. If he is alone in the evening in his quarters and all voices are still, then

he spreads out the photographs of his dear ones before him and abandons himself to longing. 'Peace' is the releasing word which he impatiently awaits."

Gretchen is Not Fair The above article is mostly a correct conception of conditions in Coblenz from the viewpoint of the German mind but I must take decided exceptions to his reference to the "beauty of the German barmaid" as there is no such animal. I failed to find one any place in Coblenz and I don't believe I passed up any of the bars. Of course I may have been somewhat biased in my opinion due to the fact that I went to Coblenz direct from the association with the "beauties" of Paris and by comparison the German girl hasn't a ghost of a chance beside the French girl of Paris. We often remarked that we didn't particularly blame the Germans for trying to capture France and some of it's women if they had to marry the kind of girls we saw in Coblenz and Cologne.

#### Defeated German Army Triumphant in Retreat

Should the allies have allowed General Foch to continue until he battered his victorious way into Berlin? Writes Sergeant Webb of the great Hun exaction of occupied territory following the armistice: "The troops did not look as a routed army in retreat might be expected to look. On the contrary, one might have thought that it was a victorious advance. Their march discipline was perfect, and their men seemed to be in high spirits. Their horses and wagons were decorated with flowers, evergreens and flags. They were apparently celebrating their return to Germany."

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